A meeting of Women MPs is being convened to discuss the draft Perspective Plan, and a meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to the HRD Ministry will also be held to discuss the draft Plan.

The draft Plan has been freely distributed to interested persons/organisations to elicit comments and recommendations.

The draft National Perspective Plan is being finalized taking into account the views of the State Governments, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, voluntary organisations and representatives of women's interests, etc.

Ban on sale and use of non-iodised salt in Delhi

1911. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Delhi Administration to ban sale and use of non-iodised salt;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have given adequate assistance in maintaining sufficient supply of iodised salt to Delhi Adiminstration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes. Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences have revealed the prevalence of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders among different segments of population in Delhi.

In order to control the problem of Goitre and other associated Iodine Deficiency Disorders, the Government of India have advised the Delhi Administration to ban sale of salt other than iodised salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(c) Adequate quantity of iodised salt is being provided to the Union Territory of Delhi under the National Goitre Control Programme. During 1987-88 a quantity of 1.22 lakh MT of iodised salt was supplied against an estimated annual requirement of 42,800 tonnes, to Delhi.

Blindness caused by diabetes

1912. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 155 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diabetes is also one of the causes which leads to blindness;

(b) what are the other causes which lead to blindness;

(c) whether control of diabetes is covered under the National Health Programme;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that this disease was covered under National Health Programme when the list of drugs needed for the disease under the Programme was finalised and sent for price control;

(e) if so, names of drugs recommended for price control under this disease;

(f) when was this disease removed from National Health Programme, alongwith the reasons; and

(g) what is the total number of cases of diabetes in the country and

the number of them who became blind and died due to this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other causes which lead to blindness are cataract, infections of the eye, nutritional deficiency trauma, glaucoma, retinal diseases due to systemic disorders and optic nerve diseases.

(c) to (f) No, Sir, After review of the National Health Programmes identified for the purpose of price control for D.P.C.O. 1987, diabetes was not covered in the final list. Insulin and Glybenclamide are covtred under category II of the Drugs Price Control Order 1987.

(g) On the basis of a survey undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that there are 6 to 8 million cases of diabetes in India. Of these, about 2-5% may develop visual impairment and blindness due to diabetes. The number of persons who died due to this disease is not available with the Government.

International Airport at Ahmedabad with modern facilities

1913. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAL MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attentino has been drawn to the newsitems which appeared in the The Congress Weekly dated the 11th June, 1988 to the effect that Ahmedabad in Gujarat would be the fifth International Airport;

(b) whether the then Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism had been reported to have stated that necessary action was being taken to make Ahmedabad Airport the Fifth International Airport;

(c) if so, whether Government have decided to have a fifth international airport at Ahmedabad, with all modern amenities and technical facilities for serving all types of aircraft;

(d) whether a team of experts from the Ministry has conducted a preliminary exercise and whether a report has been submitted; and

(e) whether new airports are proposed to be constructed and the present ones renovated in the current plan; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Neither in his interview nor in the press report which had appeared in The Congress Weekly of 11-6-1988, the then Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism, has been reported to have stated so.

(c) Does not airse.

(d) No team of experts from the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism has conducted any such exercise.

(e) Construction of new airports subject to availability of funds and upgradation of facilities at existing aerodromes in a phased manner are planned.

Rail Accidents

1914. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the statutory inquiry held regarding 102 Dn Amritsar Tata-Nagar Express and